

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 684

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Johnny N. Mata, who is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award and is being honored with a celebration for his 80th birthday; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Johnny Mata has been a champion of social justice, education, and civil rights in Houston and across the state; after serving his country as a member of the United States Army, he joined the Gulf Coast Community Services Association, where he served with distinction for 32 years and where his tireless commitment to helping those struggling to make better lives for themselves had a profound impact on countless people; and

WHEREAS, Committed to a life of service on behalf of the underprivileged and the Latino communities, Mr. Mata has been an outspoken voice against prejudice and injustice through his work with a number of organizations; as a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, he has held numerous leadership positions; he has served six terms as the director of two local districts and two terms as Texas state director; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mata has been responsible for bringing to the forefront issues regarding law enforcement and education in the Hispanic community; he was a founding member of the Latino Learning Center, which serves the educational needs of Hispanics, and he has been recognized nationally for advocating for the hiring of Hispanic educators and administrators in public school districts; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. Mata founded the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice, an umbrella organization of more than 25 civil rights and advocacy groups dedicated to raising awareness of human rights issues and to addressing deficiencies in the Greater Houston area's criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, The coalition played a vital role in reforming the way Texas grand juries are selected so that they better represent a broad cross-section of the community; the work of the organization has also included addressing the issues of the use of deadly force by police officers against minorities and the treatment of immigrants and of the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Mata has been instrumental in improving the lives of people across Texas and the country, and it is truly fitting that he receive special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby commend Johnny N. Mata on his deep and abiding commitment to the causes of social justice and equal rights and extend to him best wishes for continued success as he celebrates his 80th birthday; and, be it further

S.R. No. 684

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Whitmire, Garcia

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 26, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate